

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A spring pick block for a printer, comprising:

an inclined surface having a lower end and configured to engage a leading edge
5 of a media stack;

an indentation, formed near the lower end of the inclined surface, having a
substantially vertical surface; and

a spring arm, movably disposed with respect to the inclined surface, and movable
between:

10 a rearward position in which the spring arm is disposed rearward; and

a forward position in which the spring arm is disposed forward.

2. A spring pick block in accordance with claim 1, wherein the spring arm has an
attached end secured near an upper end of the spring pick block, and a free end movably
15 disposed near the indentation at the lower end of the spring pick block.

3. A spring pick block in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a gap formed in
the inclined surface of the spring pick block; and wherein the spring arm is disposed in the gap
and movable into and out of the indentation.

4. A spring pick block in accordance with claim 1, wherein the spring arm is resilient,
and bends between the rearward and forward positions.

5. A spring pick block in accordance with claim 1, wherein the inclined surface is
25 disposed at a front wall that defines a feed end of a media feed area configured to receive the
leading edge of the media stack.

6. A spring pick block in accordance with claim 5, further comprising:
attachment means for attaching the inclined surface to the front wall.

7. A spring pick block in accordance with claim 6, further comprising:

at least one attachment arm, extending rearward with respect to the inclined
surface, with the front wall held between the inclined surface and the at least one
attachment arm.

8. A spring pick block in accordance with claim 5, further comprising:

a corner media separator, disposed at a lateral end of the front wall configured to engage a corner of the media stack.

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9. A spring pick block in accordance with claim 1, wherein the indentation extends laterally across the inclined surface; wherein the spring arm has an attachment end integrally formed with the inclined surface, a free end pivotally disposed near the lower end of the inclined surface, and an upper surface that is substantially flush with the inclined surface in the forward position.

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10. A spring pick block in accordance with claim 1, wherein the inclined surface forms an angle between approximately 25 and 35 degrees with respect to vertical; and wherein the substantially vertical surface forms an angle between approximately 0 and 10 degrees with respect to vertical.

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11. A spring pick block in accordance with claim 1, wherein the spring arm is disposed rearward in the rearward position in response to a greater load imposed by a higher media stack with the leading edge disposed in the indentation; and wherein the spring arm is disposed forward in the forward position in response to a lesser load imposed by a lower media stack with the leading edge disposed substantially out of the indentation.

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12. A corner media separator for a printer, comprising:

a corner media separator, disposed at a lateral end of a front wall of a media feed area configured to receive a leading edge of a media stack, the corner media separator located and configured to engage a corner of the media stack.

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13. A corner media separator in accordance with claim 12, further comprising a plurality of teeth disposed on and extending laterally across the friction surface.

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14. A corner media separator in accordance with claim 12, wherein the friction surface includes a rubber material.

15. A corner media separator in accordance with claim 12, further comprising:

securing means for attaching the corner media separator to the front wall.

16. A corner media separator in accordance with claim 12, further comprising:

a spring pick block, disposed at the front wall and configured to engage a leading
5 edge of the media stack, including:

an inclined surface having a lower end;

an indentation, formed near the lower end of the inclined surface, having
a substantially vertical surface;

a spring arm, movably disposed with respect to the inclined surface.

17. A media loading and separation system for a printer, comprising:

a spring pick block, configured to be disposed at a front wall of a feed end of a
media feed area configured to receive a leading edge of a media stack, the spring pick
block configured to engage a leading edge of the media stack, including:

15 an inclined surface having a lower end;

an indentation, formed near the lower end of the inclined surface, having
a substantially vertical surface;

a spring arm, movably disposed with respect to the inclined surface, and
movable between:

20 a rearward position in which the spring arm is disposed rearward;

and

a forward position in which the spring arm is disposed forward;

and

a corner media separator, disposed at a lateral end of the front wall, configured to
25 engage a corner of the media stack .

18. A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein the spring arm has an attached end
secured near an upper end of the spring pick block, and a free end movably disposed near the
indentation at the lower end of the spring pick block.

19. A system in accordance with claim 17, further comprising a gap formed in the
inclined surface of the spring pick block; and wherein the spring arm is disposed in the gap and
movable into and out of the indentation.

20. A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein the spring arm is resilient, and bends between the rearward and forward positions.

21. A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein the indentation extends laterally
5 across the inclined surface; wherein the spring arm has an attachment end integrally formed with the inclined surface, a free end pivotally disposed near the lower end of the inclined surface, and an upper surface that is substantially flush with the inclined surface in the forward position.

22. A system in accordance with claim 17, further comprising:
10 at least one separator pad, disposed at the front wall, having an inclined front surface.

23. A spring pick block in accordance with claim 17, wherein the spring arm is disposed rearward in the rearward position in response to a greater load imposed by a higher media stack
15 with the leading edge disposed in the indentation; and wherein the spring arm is disposed forward in the forward position in response to a lesser load imposed by a lower media stack with the leading edge disposed substantially out of the indentation.

24. A device for facilitating picking of individual sheets from a media stack of a printer,
20 comprising:
an inclined surface having a lower end and configured to engage a leading edge of the media stack;
an indentation, formed near the lower end of the inclined surface; and
means for selectively pushing the media stack away from the indentation.

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25. A device in accordance with claim 24, wherein the means for selectively pushing is disposed rearward in a rearward position in response to a greater load imposed by a higher media stack with a leading edge disposed in the indentation; and wherein the means for selectively pushing is disposed forward in a forward position in response to a lesser load
30 imposed by a lower media stack with the leading edge disposed substantially out of the indentation.

26. A device for facilitating separation of individual sheets from a media stack of a printer, comprising:

means for engaging an individual sheet at a corner thereof and separating the individual sheet from the media stack .

27. A device in accordance with claim 26, wherein the means for engaging is disposed
5 at a lateral end of a front wall of a media feed area configured to receive a leading edge of a media stack.